

**GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT  
SUMMER SESSION**

WE, THE DAVIDSON COUNTY GRAND JURORS FOR THE SUMMER SESSION OF 2009, SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING FINAL REPORT.

### **Expression of Gratitude**

We would like to include several people in the expression of our gratitude for this opportunity to serve our fellow citizens.

First, we remember our forefathers who settled at Fort Nashborough in 1779, who without a vision of freedom from tyranny and having a desire of freedom of worship, none of us would be here exercising the freedom of a society whose duty is justice. We are truly grateful and owe a debt to their sacrifice for our future.

Now to our present time; we, the jurors, would like to thank the following: Judge

downward spiral in Nashville and that our leaders are full of hope and vision for a prosperous Nashville of tomorrow.

### **Concerns and Recommendations**

Several cases have been presented that disturb this jury. Below are said concerns and our recommendations for the start of a solution to these problems. Also included are some praises for people that, in our view, have succeeded in finding partial solutions and have made a difference in this community. In viewing the previous two Grand Jury reports, we have found that many of our concerns have been voiced by other juries. In those cases, we will again bring to view an ongoing outcry for reform. We do this in an attempt to secure the future of our children and a better Nashville for all citizens. We, the jury, understand the economic times that we face, yet a

instances, Hamilton County was made aware of one teacher's active warrants from the FBI and never acted upon the information given to them. We have asked for a person from DCS to come and talk with us and that has not materialized.

In our own inquiries, we have found that these three agencies do not communicate to one another on a regular basis. This is very concerning, since we, the jury, see that some of the problems could be solved and our children made more safe if agencies would communicate with each other. Therefore, we recommend a representative from all three agencies meet on a regular basis to communicate. An alternative recommendation would be that a liaison be hired who works with all three agencies to keep information going between the school system, DCS, and law enforcement. We see this as very important for the future to prevent mistakes of the past.

the loop and make it rougher for them to slip through the cracks by checking all avenues available to expose this menace.

This jury has heard of fraud cases on many levels. We heard of fraud in the area of disabilities, where we learned that recipients do not have to bring in income tax returns from the previous year to renew state benefits funding. We, as citizens, have to provide three years of income tax statements to receive a loan that has to be paid back. Why would a person that is receiving assistance with living costs from the government not be required to prove they did not work the previous year? Here again, we are providing loopholes for people to commit crimes that put a strain on tax dollars. We heard a case of such fraud that continued along for years costing thousands of taxpayer dollars. Not only did this act of fraud cost the initial money from

taxes which will assist in paying for those that make decisions that require them to stay in prison, instead of the present tax dollars paying for 7.5% of prisoners. It cost \$62 a day to pay for the care of a prisoner. A person making minimum wage pays \$1,845.00 in income tax and this does not include all other taxes on food, gas, i.e. that one would pay to Metropolitan Government on a yearly basis. Not only would it make more sense to invest in the rehabilitation of a prisoner, but we as a community could be proud that we assist anyone that desires to make a better life for themselves and is willing to put forth the effort to do so.

### **Jury Recognition**

On a more positive note this jury applauds Juvenile Court Judge Green for her efforts to not only punish crime but at the same time rehabilitate the prisoner. Judge Green has developed a

getting your life back is much better than \$62.00 a day with a 50/50 chance of always being a \$62.00 a day person with no hope for a better future.

### **Summation and Recommendation of Site Visits**

This Grand Jury, like others, has taken trips to various institutions around Nashville to fulfill our obligation of inquiry on the conditions and management of the prisons and other institutions within Davidson County. Below is a summation and recommendations of those sites visited:

The Metro Police Academy: this trip enlightened jurors of the intense training our police officers endure. We were very impressed at the knowledge of the instructors and how dedicated they were to upholding the law. We would thank all the officers for showing us the facility and

## **- Conclusion**

In conclusion, this Grand Jury feels honored to have done our civic duty. Our recommendations are heartfelt and have been discussed many times during our sessions. We realize prisoners have rights, and we cannot force a person to respect another. We will always have prisoners until human hearts change towards one another. Let us take the example of the supreme judge who said, "Today I set before you life and death, Choose life." Let us give prisoners the same choice. This will not only ease the tax burden, but will allow our generation to fulfill the vision of our forefathers and truly fulfill society's first duty of justice, which is to live and worship in peace, free from tyranny.